



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
 BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
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INFORMATION FOR LICENSEES

About the Board (BPM) - Like all licensing agencies, the Board of Podiatric Medicine's statutory mission is to ensure protection of consumers. BPM does this just like the Medical Board by setting licensing standards, testing for entry-level competence, approving colleges, residencies and CME, and enforcing the Medical Practice Act. It restricts licenses when necessary (probation or suspension), and in extreme cases revokes them.

Composed of 4 DPMs and one layperson appointed by the Governor and 2 laypersons named by the Legislature, BPM is part of the larger Medical Board and Department of Consumer Affairs. Licensing agencies have a different mission than professional associations, such as the CPMA, which are primarily concerned with protecting and advancing the profession.

Scope of Practice – §2472 of the Medical Practice Act defines your scope as: "the diagnosis, medical, surgical, mechanical, manipulative, and electrical treatment of the human foot, including the ankle and tendons that insert into the foot and the nonsurgical treatment of the muscles and tendons of the leg governing the functions of the foot."

California law permits DPMs to independently diagnose, treat, prescribe, and perform admission histories and physicals. It does prohibit DPMs from (1) performing total amputations of the foot, and (2) administering general anesthetics.

Ankle Licenses – DPMs may perform ankle surgery provided they obtained their original license on or after January 1, 1984 or they possess a separate "ankle license" issued by BPM prior to 1999. Non-ankle licensed DPMs may assist ankle-licensed practitioners in ankle surgery. BPM interprets surgical treatment of the ankle to include those parts of the tibia, fibula, their malleoli and related structures as indicated by the procedures.

Free BPM Fact Sheets

- Important Numbers and Addresses-Easy reference
- License Status Options-Determine which one you need.
- Information for Consumers-Put a stack in your waiting room
- Information for Health Facilities-Answers questions they might have
- Information on the Law-Lists key laws and tells you how to get a copy
- Information on Continuing Competence-Clarified
- Information on Enforcement-Explains the system and your rights
- Information on Amputations-State law prohibits DPMs from performing total foot amputations
- Information on Advertising-Ensure your ads conform to the law
- Discrimination by Health Facilities-The Department of Health Services sanctions hospitals that discriminate against any licensed profession

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"Information on the Law" – This BPM fact sheet lists the Business & Professions Code sections most applicable to you and explains how to get the law book itself. It is your responsibility as a California licensee to know the law. Ignorance is no defense in any legal proceeding. For more information, call BPM's enforcement coordinator in Sacramento.

Ethics – The AMA Code of Medical Ethics and the APMA Code of Ethics are both broadly applicable to podiatric medicine.

Standard of Care – BPM has issued a statement (available at www.dca.ca.gov/bpm/new/seek_experts.html or from the board's office) regarding the standard of care and looks to the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons' Preferred Practice Guidelines as an important part of that literature.

Medical Assistants and Physician Assistants – Pursuant to §2069, §3500, and §3503 of the Medical Practice Act, DPMs may employ in their practice medical and physician assistants. Please contact the Medical Board at (916) 263-2496 and the Physician Assistant Committee at (916) 263-2670 for further information.

BPM Enforcement – Like enforcement at other state boards, BPM's is managed by its executive officer and enforcement coordinator subject to the requirements of the State Administrative Procedure Act (APA). This law ensures due process. Independent Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) preside at the Board's administrative hearings and prepare proposed decisions. These must be ratified by a majority of the seven board members. Since the board serves as the jury, the law forbids any ex parte communication with the board members (jury tampering) by either party (prosecution or defense). For further information, see Information on Enforcement or talk to BPM's Enforcement Coordinator.

Specialty Certification – BPM has recently approved the American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry (ABMSP) as a specialty certifying board in California. ABMSP can be contacted at: American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry, 1350 Broadway, Suite 1705, New York, NY, 10018 ☎ (888) 852-1442.

How to File a Complaint – Your professional code of ethics mandates you to inform the board of patient care that you believe falls below the standard of care. Written complaints should be addressed to:

Medical Board Central Complaints
1426 Howe Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95825

1-800-MED-BD-CA.....	to talk to a consumer service specialist in Central Complaints
1-916-263-2647.....	to talk with BPM's licensing or enforcement coordinators
1-916-263-2382	to verify licensure or discipline information about California
(www2.dca.ca.gov/pls/wllpub/wllquery\$.startup)	doctors

***"Boards are established to protect the people of California."
Section 101.6, B&P Code***